

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission
August 25, 2010
10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center
Murdock Room - IDHS
Suite 5-300
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois

and

Illinois Department of Transportation
1100 E. Port Plaza
Room 101
Collinsville, IL 62234

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

In Chicago

Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.

David Chang

Charles E. Box

Robert S. Enriquez

Nabi Fakroddin, P.E., S.E.

Marylee Freeman

Spencer Leak, Sr.

Rozanne Ronen

Diane M. Viverito

In Collinsville

Marti Baricevic

Via the Telephone

Gregory Simoncini

Absent

Chairman Martin R. Castro

Munir Muhammad

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Staff	N. Keith Chambers
	Reva Bauch
	Dr. Ewa I. Ewa
	Michael J. Evans
	Harriet Parker (via telephone in her HRC office)
	Donyelle L. Gray
	Evelio Mora
	Bricia Herrera
	Christopher Hoffmann (Student Extern)

Members of Public: None

NOTICE:

Public meetings and closed meetings of the Illinois Human Rights Commission are audio recorded.

I. Call to Order

On August 25, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., Acting Chairman Sakhawat Hussain, M.D. called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it was determined that:

- 1) A quorum of the public body was present at the meeting without the physical presence of Chairman Castro, Commissioner Simoncini, and Commissioner Muhammad. Prior to the meeting, Chairman Castro and Commissioner Muhammad gave prior notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body, Harriet Parker, that they would be absent from the August 25, 2010, meeting. Commissioner Simoncini gave prior notice (and good cause as defined by the Illinois Open Meetings Act) to the General Counsel and Secretary of the Public Body that he would be unable to be physically present for the August 25, 2010, meeting, and that he wished to participate via telephone.
- 2) The Commission voted to allow Commissioner Simoncini to participate via the telephone. Motion made by Commissioner Enriquez, seconded by Commissioner Leak. Motion carried 10-0.

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- 3) The Commission voted to allow Commissioner Hussain to serve as Chairman of the August 25, 2010, meeting in Chairman Castro's absence. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Motion carried 10-0.

II. Consideration of Minutes

August 9, 2010

The minutes of the meeting of August 9, 2010, were approved as submitted by staff. Motion made by Commissioner Nabi, seconded by Commissioner Enriquez. Motion carried 11-0.

III. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Executive Director Chambers reported that 250 copies of the Annual Report have been ordered and will arrive in a few weeks. The Report will be distributed to the Office of the Governor and to all members of the Illinois General Assembly.

Mr. Chambers reported that in July 2010, Governor Quinn appointed a Chair and quorum of members to the Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission.

Mr. Chambers reported that pursuant to Senate Resolution Number 609, the Office of the Auditor General is conducting a management audit of the State's financial reporting system. The Commission is included in this audit and has responded to all requested information. Mr. Chambers also discussed the Governor's Administrative Order 2 which mandated that all senior staff attend Rutan Overview and Compliance and Mandatory Ethics Training. All of the Commission's senior staff have completed this training.

Mr. Chambers announced that the HRC has been invited by the Illinois Department of Human Rights to participate as an information vendor at the Women's Equality Day Celebration, co-sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor, the Illinois Department of Labor, the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations Advisory Council, and the Illinois Department of Human Rights, on August 26, 2010, at the James R. Thompson Center.

B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

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Chief Fiscal Officer Dr. Ewa reported that there are no new changes with respect to the FY2011 budget.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

Chief ALJ Evans reported that for July 2010 fourteen cases were filed and fifteen cases were disposed in the Administrative Law Section.

D. Harriet J. Parker, General Counsel

General Counsel Parker reported on the new clarifications to the Family Medical Leave Act which expands the definition of son and daughter to ensure that employees who assume the role of care giver for a child are afforded access to family leave irrespective of legal or biological relationship.

Ms. Parker announced the departure of the Summer Coles Fellows and the High School Student Intern, and expressed gratitude to Chairman Castro and to the Commissioners who contributed to the students' farewell pizza party luncheon. Ms. Parker introduced Fall Student Extern Christopher Hoffmann, a 3L Law Student at IIT Chicago Kent College of Law. Mr. Hoffman will serve as a Student Extern with the Commission through the first week in December 2010.

Ms. Parker gave a brief summary of certain procedures which must be followed regarding Closed or Executive Sessions Meetings under the Open Meetings Act. In keeping with the OMA requirement that the public body review Closed Session minutes every six months to determine whether the minutes require continued confidentiality, Ms. Parker advised the Commissioners that she would be sending the Commissioners copies of all Executive Session Minutes of the last two years for their review, with an eye towards a possible determination in September.

Ms. Parker shared that she had recently attended the State sponsored mandatory Rutan Overview and Compliance, and Mandatory Ethics Training.

IV. Old Business

A. FY 2011 Calendar: Panel Rotation

The Commissioners decided to change the meeting times of Panels B and D. Effective September 2010, Panel B will meet at 11:30 a.m. and Panel D will meet at 1:00 p.m. The meeting days of the Panels remain unchanged.

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Commissioner Viverito and Commissioner Ronen agreed to exchange Panel assignments effective September 2010. Commissioner Viverito will sit on Panel C, and Commissioner Ronen will now sit on Panel D. Motion to approve the FY2011 Calendar, as herein amended, made by Commissioner Freeman seconded by Commissioner Viverito. Motion carried 11-0.

B. Community Outreach

Commissioner Enriquez advised the Commission that he is still in the process of scheduling the next HRC Outreach event and will have an update at the next En Banc meeting.

C. Commission Brochures

HRC brochures have been translated into Spanish and Polish. It was agreed the brochures should be closely examined for accuracy, prior to adoption for use by the Commission. Commissioner Hussain promised to provide Mr. Chambers with the name of at least one certified translator prior to the next En banc.

V. New Business

No new business.

VI. Executive Session

No Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman, with a second by Commissioner Nabi. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Parker
General Counsel